WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nucleic acid construct, comprising a GILR cDNA operably linked to a mammalian T-cell lineage specific, expression regulatory sequence.

2. The construct according to claim 1, wherein said mammalian T-cell lineage specific, expression regulatory sequence comprises a human CD2 promoter and a human CD2 locus control region.

3. A transgenic mouse having integrated in its genome a nucleic acid construct according to claim 1, comprising a mammalian T-cell lineage specific, expression regulatory sequence operably linked to a GILR cDNA sequence, wherein said mouse expresses GILR in its T-cell lineage at an elevated level compared to a non-transgenic mouse and wherein the expression of GILR results in an alteration of the thymocyte subset composition and of caspase-3 activation.

4. The transgenic mouse according to claim 3, wherein said mammalian T-cell lineage specific, expression regulatory sequence comprises a human CD2 promoter and a human CD2 locus control region.

5. A cell of T-cell lineage isolated from the transgenic mouse of claim 4, wherein said cell expresses GILR at an elevated level compared to a cell of T-cell lineage isolated from a non-transgenic mouse.

6. The cell of claim 5, wherein said cell is isolated from thymocyte or spleen of the transgenic mouse.

7. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a plurality of the cell of claim 6, and to control non-transgenic cells; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoids-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate compound to said cells of claim 6 and to said control non-transgenic cells.

8. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a plurality of the cell of claim 5, and to control non-transgenic cells; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoids-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate compound to said cells of claim 5 and to said control non-transgenic cells.

9. A stable cell line established from a cell isolated from said transgenic mouse of claim 4.

10. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a plurality of cells from the cell line of claim 9, and to control non-transgenic cells; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoid-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate compound to said plurality of cells from the cell line of claim 9 and to said control non-transgenic cells.

11. A cell of T-cell lineage isolated from the transgenic mouse of claim 3, wherein said cell expresses GILR at an elevated level compared to a cell of T-cell lineage isolated from a non-transgenic mouse.

12. The cell of claim 11, wherein said cell is isolated from thymocyte or spleen of the transgenic mouse.

13. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a plurality of the cell of claim 12, and to control non-transgenic cells; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoid-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate compound to said cells of claim 12 and to said control non-transgenic cells.

14. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a plurality of the cell of claim 11, and to control non-transgenic cells; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoid-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate compound to said cells of claim 11 and to said control non-transgenic cells.

15. A stable cell line established from a cell isolated from said transgenic mouse of claim 3.

16. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a plurality of cells from the cell line of claim 15, and to control non-transgenic cells; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoid-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate

compound to said plurality of cells from the cell line of claim 15 and to said control non-transgenic cells.

17. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a transgenic mouse of claim 3, and to a control non-transgenic mouse; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoid-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate to said transgenic mouse and to said control non-transgenic mouse.

18. A method for screening compounds having glucocorticoid-related effects, comprising:

administering a potential candidate compound to a transgenic mouse of claim 4, and to a control non-transgenic mouse; and

determining whether said potential candidate compound exhibits glucocorticoid-related effects by comparing the effects of the administration of said potential candidate to said transgenic mouse and to said control non-transgenic mouse.

19. A method of producing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a nucleic acid construct, wherein said construct comprises a mammalian T-cell lineage specific, expression regulatory sequence operably linked to a GILR cDNA sequence, said method comprising:

transferring a nucleic acid construct according to claim 1, comprising a mammalian T-cell lineage specific promoter operably linked to a GILR cDNA sequence to a fertilized mouse oocyte;

allowing the zygote resulting from the fertilized mouse oocyte to develop to term, thereby obtaining a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises the nucleic acid construct;

breeding said transgenic mouse with a non-transgenic mouse to generate offspring; and

selecting from the offspring a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises the nucleic acid construct, wherein said transgenic mouse expresses GILR in the T-cell lineage at an elevated level compared to a non-transgenic mouse.

20. A DNA sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and encoding a glucocorticoid-induced leucine-zipper family related protein (GILR).